



Find me on  
Facebook 

View my profile on  
Linked 

Follow me on  
twitter

## **Budget Shortfalls Deserve Attention Today/The Games Are Here**

- **Next Year's Budget Shortfalls Deserve Attention Today-** The County is forecasting a \$100M shortfall for next fiscal year and the school system is forecasting their own \$100M shortfall as well. One would think that the Board of Supervisors and the School Board would begin addressing the shortfall today while we have time to review our very complex organizations and budgets. During our budget process I asked the Board to approve budget guidance to have additional budget committee meetings this summer and fall but the motion failed on a 7 to 3 vote with only Supervisors Cook and Frey supporting my request. To date only Superintendent Garza has moved forward in a responsible fashion, pulling together a task force including the business and community leaders as well as appointees of the school board and the public in the discussion.
- **The World Police and Fire Games are Here-** See below for information on the games, how to get free tickets to the opening ceremony and concert, the events and other information on the games.

### **Next Year's Budget Shortfall Deserves Attention Today**

The County is forecasting a \$100M shortfall for next fiscal year and the school system is forecasting their own \$100M shortfall as well. One would think that the Board of Supervisors and the School Board would begin addressing the shortfall today while we have time to review our very complex organizations and budgets. During our budget process I asked the Board to approve budget guidance to have additional budget committee meetings this summer and fall but the motion failed on a 7 to 3 vote with only Supervisors Cook and Frey supporting my request. To date only Superintendent Garza has moved forward in a responsible fashion, pulling together a task force including the business and community leaders as well as appointees of the school board and the public in the discussion. I encourage you to visit <http://fcps.uservoice.com/forums/302115-what-are-your-ideas-for-balancing-the-potential-1> to give your ideas for reductions in the school budget or to "vote" for solutions that have been suggested by others. Meanwhile, it appears the plan for the Board of Supervisors and the School Board majorities is to punt the issue to next spring as usual; this approach has given us tax increases in excess of 16% over the last three years combined and we appear headed down the same path.

I have received a lot of emails since the Superintendent sent out her newsletter on the school budget. In my conversations with the Superintendent after the email was sent, she indicated that her concern was primarily next year's budget. I reiterated my concern that we needed to start working the issue today and that I believe we needed to continue the work of the Joint Budget Development Committee (JBDC) of BOS and School Board members that we began last year. This was another recommendation I made during the Board of Supervisors budget discussions but so far no action on additional JBDC meetings. That is why I am happy to see the Superintendent moving forward with the task force. It will be a challenging task and is a group with very diverse opinions but I respect the effort.

A lot has been said about the school budget but let's take a look at some basic facts on enrollment growth, number of teachers and budget growth over the last 14 years:

Enrollment in FY2001: 161,000

Enrollment in FY2015: 185,000

Net Change: +15%

Employees in FY2001: 19,800

Employees in FY2015: 23,400

Net Change: +18%

Expenditures in FY2001: \$1.375 Billion

Expenditures in FY2015: \$2.498

Net Change: +82%

2000-2015 Inflation: +37% (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Interesting observation: In FY2001, FCPS spent \$240 million in benefits. In FY2015, they spent \$680 million. While every other budget category has roughly doubled since FY2001, benefits have tripled, while inflation has been 37%.

Budget growth and teacher growth has outpaced enrollment growth; however numbers are not always as simple as they appear. The schools are facing increased challenges, some under our control, some not: massive expansion in standardized testing, increase in the administrative overhead requirements on teachers, growth in students needing complex special educational services, increase in students needing English language instruction (ESOL), increase in students needing free or reduced meals (FRM), zoning and land use policies that do not synchronize with school growth projections, the federal government shirking its responsibility regarding unaccompanied minors, disproportionate growth in pension and benefits costs, and more.

The answers are not simple or easy but they begin with open and honest discussion and I hope that is what the Superintendent's task force will accomplish. Some of my initial thoughts, many you have heard before:

- Focus resources into the classroom - currently if you divide the number of students by the number of teachers you get an average class size of 12 - we need to get teachers back in the classroom teaching and not doing administration.
- Focus on eliminating the administrative and testing burden on our teachers before we lose more of them - see the Washington Post article ([Metro Monday June 8, 2015 "What is making a first year teacher reconsider her future? Lots of testing."](#))
- Look at outsourcing basic functions - the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce has offered to help with this effort - many functions in the school system can be more efficiently outsourced
- Address rising pension and benefit costs - look to put some of the savings into teacher salaries - while our salaries are not competitive with surrounding jurisdictions, our total compensation (salary plus benefits, plus pensions) exceeds many jurisdictions. I continue to believe we need to have the best paid teachers in the region in order to have the best school system - we need to look at the balance of the components of compensation.
- Need to look at the County's land use policies which are driving up the number of FRM and ESOL Students - starting with the North Hill project which would put hundreds of these students in schools that are near failing because of the high FRM/ESOL populations
- We need to continue to seek changes to the state's funding formula to return more of our tax money to our schools
- Need to continue to seek reimbursement from the Federal government for the unaccompanied minor children they relocated here.

On the County side the focus has been on the Lines of Business (LOBs) review that is currently underway. While I expect the LOB reviews to be a worthwhile process,

unfortunately the Board will not see the first results until January - too late to address next year's budget shortfall.

The key to addressing the collective budget shortfalls is to get to the hard work of addressing our shortfalls today. Both boards voted themselves pay raises - it is time we put the effort in and begin addressing this problem before the only option left on the table is to add to our residents' tax burden.

### **The Games Are Here**

Fairfax County is hosting this year's biannually World Police and Fire Games, the second largest sporting event in the world based on number of participants. This competition will bring ten thousand athletes from around the globe that serve in the public safety sector together to compete in a variety of traditional and specialized competitions. This is going to be an exciting time and I encourage everyone to get out and watch some of the competitions.

The games begin with the opening ceremony Friday evening (June 26) at RFK and will conclude with the closing ceremony on July 5 at Wolf Trap. The events are free to spectators and except the opening and closing ceremonies are no tickets are required. The athletes village is in Reston Town Center.

In order to find specific events and other information about the games:

Schedule of events: <http://fairfax2015.com/host-info/games-combine-column/gamelist/program-info/full-schedule>

#### Opening Ceremony

Tickets: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wrzgRbi1ZwCbttAWdTaqoaCWxOGXH8Gz2RL\\_z\\_S7ws/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wrzgRbi1ZwCbttAWdTaqoaCWxOGXH8Gz2RL_z_S7ws/viewform)

To find out more about the WPF: <http://fairfax2015.com/aboutwpfg#38.6641987/-77.1782463/13/cats/112;114;115;110;121;122;123;124;125;126;127;128;129;130;113;119;118;117;116/hotspot/246>

Below is the schedule and locations of Events and Competitions for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games:

	26 FRI	27 SAT	28 SUN	29 MON	30 TUE	1 WED	2 THU	3 FRI	4 SAT	5 SUN		BUS
ANGLING					8A-6P	8A-6P						Pohick Bay Regional Park, 6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton, VA
ARCHERY - 3D									9A-4P			Fountainhead Regional Park, 10875 Hampton Road, Fairfax, VA
ARCHERY - FIELD						9A-4P						Fountainhead Regional Park, 10875 Hampton Road, Fairfax, VA
ARCHERY - TARGET							9A-4P	9A-4P				Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, VA
BADMINTON							9A-8P	9A-8P	9A-8P			NOVA Badminton Club, 44590 Guilford Drive, #100, Ashburn, VA
BASEBALL		8A-8P	8A-8P	8A-8P	8A-8P	8A-8P						Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA

BASEBALL		8A-8P	8A-8P	8A-8P	8A-8P	8A-8P					George Mason Univ Spuhler Field, 4501 University Drive, Fairfax, VA	
BASKETBALL - 3X3							11A-9P	11A-9P	11A-9P	11A-9P	8A-6P	George Mason Univ Field House, 4501 University Drive, Fairfax, VA
BASKETBALL - 5X5	10A-1P	10A-9P	10A-9P	10A-9P	10A-9P							George Mason Univ RAC, 4350 Bannister Creek Court, Fairfax, VA
BILLIARDS				8A-6P	8A-6P	8A-6P	8A-6P	8A-6P				Breakers Sky Lounge, 2445 Centreville Road, Herndon, VA
BODYBUILDING		12A-8P										George Mason Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax, VA
BOWLING					8A-6P	8A-6P	8A-6P					Bowl America, 46940 Woodson Drive, Sterling, VA
BOXING				6P-11P	6P-11P	6P-11P	6P-11P	6P-11P				George Mason Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax, VA

CROSSFIT			9A-6P	9A-6P							Lerner Town Square at Tysons II, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons, VA
CYCLING - CRITERIUM			7A-2P								City of Fairfax, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax, VA
CYCLING - HILL CLIMB								730-1P			Loudoun County, 19844 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, VA
CYCLING - ROAD RACE							8A-4P				Pr William Forest Park, 18100 Park Headquarters Road, Triangle, VA
CYCLING - SPRINT		8A-2P									Fairfax County Driving Range, 3725 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA
CYCLING - TIME TRIALS						8A-4P					Pr William Forest Park, 18100 Park Headquarters Road, Triangle, VA
CYCLING - MOUNTAIN BIKE				8A-6P							Fountainhead Regional Park, 10875 Hampton Road, Fairfax, VA

DARTS	Fair f			9A- 6P	9A- 6P	9A- 6P	9A- 6P				Fairfax County Police Hall, 5625 Revercomb Court, Fairfax, VA
DODGEBALL						4P- 8P	4P- 8P	4P- 8P			Lerner Town Square at Tysons II, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons, VA
DRAGON BOAT			7A- 4P								National Harbor, 201 Water Front Street, National Harbor, MD
FIREFIGHTER MUSTER									12P -5P		Fairfax City Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax, VA
FIREFIGHTER ULTIMATE						8A- 5P	8A- 5P	8A- 5P			Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA
FLAG FOOTBALL		830A -6P	830A -6P	830A -6P							Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Rd, Vienna, VA
	26 FRI	27 SAT	28 SUN	29 MON	30 TUE	1 WE D	2 TH U	3 FRI	4 SA T	5 SU N	
GOLF				8A- 2P	8A- 2P	8A- 2P					Laurel Hill Gold Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton, VA

GOLF				1P-7P	8A-2P	8A-2P					Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodridge Parkway, Lansdowne, VA
GOLF				8A-2P	8A-2P	8A-2P					Evergreen Country Club, 15900 State Route 2010, Haymarket, VA
HONOR GUARD		9A-4P	10A-4P								Hyatt Reston Ballroom, 1800 Presidents Street, Reston VA
ICE HOCKEY		8A-10P			Ashburn Ice House, 21595 Smith Switch Road, Ashburn, VA						
ICE HOCKEY		8A-10P	8A-10P	9A-10P	8A-10P	8A-10P	8A-10P	8A-10P			Reston Skatequest, 1800 Michael Faraday Ct, Reston, VA
ICE HOCKEY		8A-10P			Prince William Ice Center, 5180 Dale Boulevard, Dale City, VA						
LACROSSE	Cen			9A-5P	9A-5P	9A-5P	9A-5P				Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA
MARTIAL ARTS - JUDO		10A-6P									George Mason Univ Field House, 4501

											University Drive, Fairfax, VA
MARTIAL ARTS - KARATE						10A-6P	10A-6P				Ernst Community Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA
MARTIAL ARTS - SUB GRAPPLING			10A-6P								George Mason Univ Field House, 4501 University Drive, Fairfax, VA
MARTIAL ARTS - TAE KWON DO				10A-6P	10A-6P						Ernst Community Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA
MOTOCROSS				8A-6P	8A-6P	8A-6P					Budds Creek Park, 27963 Budds Creek Road, Mechanicsville, MD
ORIENTEERING - LONG DISTANCE			7A-5P								Fountainhead Regional Park, 10875 Hampton Road, Fairfax, VA
ORIENTEERING - SPRINT						6P-9P					George Mason University, 4400 Patriot Circle, Fairfax, VA



												Dr, Reston, VA
RUNNING - CROSS COUNTRY						7A-11A						Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Dr, Reston, VA
RUNNING - HALF MARATHON										7A-11A		Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market Street, Reston, VA
SHOOTING - RIFLE AIR						8A-5P	8A-5P					Izaak Walton, 14708 Mount Olive Road, Centreville, VA
	26 FRI	27 SAT	28 SUN	29 MON	30 TUE	1 WED	2 THU	3 FRI	4 SAT	5 SUN		
SHOOTING - RIFLE LARGE BORE		6A-3P	6A-3P									Quantico Weapons Training Battalion, 27211 Garand Road, Stafford, VA
SHOOTING - RIFLE SMALL BORE							9A-2P	9A-2P				Fairfax Rod & Gun Club, 7039 Signal Hill Road, Manassas, VA
SHOOTING - CLAYS								8A-5P				Bull Run Regional, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, VA
SHOOTING - SKEET						8A-5P	8A-5P					Izaak Walton, 14708 Mount Olive Road,

											Centreville, VA
SHOOTING - TRAP			8A- 5P	8A- 5P	8A- 5P						Izaak Walton, 14708 Mount Olive Road, Centreville, VA
SOCCER - INDOOR						9A- 7P	9A- 7P	9A- 7P	10A- 2P		Dulles Sportsplex, 21610 Atlantic Boulevard, Sterling VA
SOCCER - OUTDOOR		8A- 3P	8A- 3P	8A- 3P	8A- 3P	8A- 3P	8A- 1P	8A- 1P			Morven Park, 41793 Tutt Lane, Leesburg, VA
SOFTBALL			9A- 9P	9A- 9P	9A- 10P	9A- 9P	9A- 9P	9A- 9P			Braddock Park, 13241 Braddock Road, Clifton, VA
SOFTBALL			9A- 9P	9A- 9P	9A- 10P	9A- 9P	9A- 9P	9A- 9P			Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA
STAIR RACE		9A- 6P									Tysons Tower, 7900 Tysons One Place, McLean, VA.
SWIMMING - OPEN WATER			9A- 1P								Lake Audubon Park, 2070 Twin Branches Road, Reston, VA
SWIMMING - SWIMMING					9A- 5P	9A- 5P	9A- 5P				George Mason Aquatic

											Center, 4520 Patriot Circle, Fairfax, VA
	TABLE TENNIS		9A-930P	9A-930P	9A-7P						Smash Table Tennis, 21620 Ridgetop Circle #195, Sterling, VA
	TENNIS	830-230	830-830	830-830	830-830	830-830	830-830	830-830			George Mason Tennis Courts, 4400 Patriot Circle, Fairfax, VA
	TENNIS	830-230	830-830	830-830	830-830	830-830	830-830	830-830			Robinson High School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032
	TOUGHEST COMPETITOR ALIVE		7A-6P	7A-6P	7A-6P	7A-6P					Westfield High School, 4630 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA
7 2	TRACK & FIELD				9A-4P	8A-6P	8A-7P	9A-8P	9A-7P	8A-5P	George Mason Stadium, 4501 University Drive, Fairfax, VA
7 3	TRIATHLON								7A-12P		South Lakes High School,, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston, VA
7 4	TUG OF WAR						11A-6P				Fairfax Gov Ctr, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA

7 5	VOLLEYBALL - BEACH		8A- 8P	8A- 8P	8A- 8P	8A- 8P					Lerner Town Square at Tysons II, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons, VA
7 6	VOLLEYBALL - INDOOR						8A- 8P	8A- 8P	8A- 8P	8A- 8P	George Mason Univ RAC, 4350 Bannister Creek Court, Fairfax, VA
7 7	WEIGHT LIFTING - BENCH PRESS				9A- 9P	9A- 9P	9A- 9P				Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon, VA
7 8	WEIGHT LIFTING - PUSH PULL						9A- 9P	9A- 9P	9A- 9P		Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon, VA
7 9	WRESTLING				9A- 6P	9A- 6P					George Mason Univ Field House, 4501 University Drive, Fairfax, VA
8 0	WRIST WRESTLING						1P- 7P				Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market Street, Reston, VA

Web: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield)

Email: [springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Phone: 703-451-8873